

male *H. lawrencii* are black. are in this specimen dusky olive-green. The specimen is quite similar to the one taken by Mr. H. W. Flint in New Haven several years ago.

The young in first plumage which this bird was attending when shot were in every respect typical *H. pinus*. The male parent was not found but I feel confident that it was *H. pinus*, as the young were well feathered and showed clearly the well defined black lores of the latter.—CLARK GREENWOOD VOORHEES, *New York City*.

Notes on Kansas Birds.—Mr. H. W. Menke, of Finney County, Kansas, at present a student in the University of Kansas, has noted in the county of his home four birds new to the bird fauna of Kansas. Finney County lies in the western and dryer portion of the State, and comprises chiefly high, dry plains. It is traversed by the Arkansas River flowing east from Colorado, but there is practically no timbered land in the county. The additions to the Kansas bird list are as follows:—

Carpodacus frontalis. HOUSE FINCH.—Five were taken by Mr. Menke out of a flock of fifteen on Jan. 5, 1892. The remnant of the flock was seen on the following day and again on the 7th. The birds were found about some stacks of alfalfa in a field of this western forage plant.

Piranga ludoviciana. LOUISIANA Tanager.—A male was shot on May 20, 1893. On June 1, 1893, several pairs were seen in a small cottonwood grove in Kearney County (a county adjoining Finney).

Dendroica cærulescens. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.—A male was taken in a deserted farm-house Oct. 17, 1891.

Hesperocichla nævia. VARIED THRUSH.—A single specimen was taken Oct. 17, 1891.

Mr. Menke has also taken in Finney County the Cinnamon Teal, the Red-breasted Merganser and the American Golden-eye, all rare Ducks in Kansas. A brother of Mr. Menke (Mr. G. G. Menke) took a set of nine eggs of the Black Rail (*Porzana jamaicensis*) on June 6, 1889. The black Rail is a rare summer resident in Kansas. On April 23, 1893, Mr. Menke shot a Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes torquatus*), the second reported occurrence of this bird in the State. He also records the second occurrence of Clarke's Nutcracker (*Picicorvus columbianus*). Three birds were seen on Oct. 10, 1891. Mr. Menke also reports that the Pinon Jay (*Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus*) which Col. Goss in his 'Birds of Kansas' (1891) calls a rare visitant, with but one authentic record of occurrence, was a common winter resident up to 1891, appearing in large flocks in the autumns of 1889, 1890 and 1891.—V. L. KELLOGG, *University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kans.*

Temperature and Nest-building.—On or about March 1, 1894, I saw a Blue Jay pressing its breast upon a few twigs in the crotch of a large post-oak limb. This tree, standing almost directly in the path of my daily walks, was watched for some two weeks and no birds being seen nor any

material added to the nest, I supposed it was abandoned, and neglected to give it more attention. My surprise can be well imagined when on April 6 I saw both parents at the nest, and a good foundation for the nest laid. The first part of March was warm, the temperature rising at one time to 91° F. in the shade. Later in the month seven inches of rain fell, with much cloudy and some freezing weather. Twice the temperature fell to 25° and the leaves were killed. Up to date, April 6, it has not risen to 80° in this month.

That temperature may affect the time of nesting seems almost proven in this case, and yet a set of Crow's eggs taken April 2 was so far advanced in incubation that it was difficult to extract the embryo. A set of Plumbeous Chickadee's (*Parus carolinensis agilis*) eggs of same date were in advanced incubation; but as these birds build in holes and line with fur, they are well able to endure a sixty-six degree change of temperature. Will some one tell us what is the accepted opinion of oölogist concerning temperature affecting nidification?—G. H. RAGSDALE, *Gainesville, Texas.*

Change of Habits in our Native Birds.—It would be as interesting, from an evolutionary point of view, to note any change in the habits of an animal, any change in the way it adjusted itself to its environment, as to note the change in its bodily form or structure. It seems to me that such a change is taking place with the English Sparrow. A dozen or more years ago when these aliens first became a feature in our fauna it seemed probable that our native birds would soon be entirely driven from the neighborhood of our cities and villages. Our Robins, Bluebirds, Catbirds, Grossbeaks, Sparrows, Martins and the like were mobbed, driven from their food and nests and generally taught to believe, with Charles Sumner, that "life is a serious business." In this section, at any rate, a change has gradually taken place. Either our native birds have unexpectedly developed powers of resistance at first unsuspected or the pugnacity of the English Sparrows has diminished, for certainly our own songsters have not been driven away but on the contrary seem as numerous as they were twenty years ago. For the past two or three years, since my attention was first called to the matter, I have seen but little if any persecution of our native birds by the foreign Sparrows; on the contrary, our own birds are now often the aggressors, and if they do not indulge in persecution themselves, are adepts at defence. Very commonly a Jay, Robin, or Catbird will from pure mischief hustle a flock of Sparrows into desperate flight. In and about Rockford, Ill., a place of 30,000 inhabitants, the native birds have not been so numerous in twenty years as in the two or three years just passed. The conditions of the adjustment between the Sparrows and our commoner birds have changed to some extent, it seems. As has been noted before, the abundance of the Sparrows may serve to explain the increase in the numbers of the smaller birds of prey, — with us notably the Screech Owl.—F. H. KIMCOLL, *Rockford, Ill.*